

## **Scoping Statement Sleeping Giant Ski Area Lift Replacement**

**USDA Forest Service  
Shoshone National Forest  
North Zone/Wapiti Ranger District  
Park County, Wyoming**

Dear Interested Party:

The Shoshone National Forest is proposing to replace one of the two existing two ski lifts at the Sleeping Giant Ski area with an improved chair-lift. The lift to be replaced is a T-bar type of lift, which is in unsatisfactory condition and is becoming unsafe for public use. In addition, a maintenance/storage garage would be constructed in the base area of the ski area for purposes of storing snow-grooming equipment, storage of flammable materials, and maintenance of equipment. At this time, there is no building to serve such purposes.

The proposed action is located approximately 49 miles west of Cody, Wyoming on the North Fork Highway, (North Fork of the Shoshone River Corridor), T 52N, R 109W in Section 11. The proposed developments are both located within the existing ski area permitted boundary and are within the general area already affected by the existing ski area developments.

### **The Proposed Action**

The proposed action is designed to maintain public safety and the level of public services already provided at the Sleeping Giant Ski area. The replacement of the antiquated T-bar with a chair lift, that meets all federal codes for public safety, would be constructed in the same location as the existing lift with only minor modifications as needed to facilitate construction. The new lift would allow for an increase of approximately 200 hundred feet of elevation to allow for constructing the upper terminal in a suitable location for off loading. Road construction would not be required as part of this proposed action, however some minor tree removal to connect with existing ski runs would be needed. The maintenance/storage garage would greatly benefit operations at the ski area to avoid improper storage of equipment and would decrease the possibility of ground contamination from equipment fluids. Implementation could begin as early as July 1, 2004.

The proposed action is considered consistent with the Shoshone Forest Plan, as amended. The action is located in the Sleeping Giant Winter Sports Area and in Management Direction Area 1B (Downhill skiing).

### **Purpose and Need**

**Purpose for the Action.** The primary purpose for the proposed action is to provide for safe and reliable downhill skiing opportunities for the public within levels previously established for this ski area. The people that generally use the ski area are from communities in the Big Horn basin including Cody, Powell, Lovell, Byron, Worland, Greybull, Meeteetse, and Thermopolis. The purpose and need are consistent with the existing levels of public use and are not considered an expansion of the ski area or available services.

**Need for the Action.** The existing T-bar as described above is antiquated and not reliable from both safety and operational standards. The lift is old, replacement parts are no longer available, and many of the mechanical parts are in need of replacement. A replacement chair lift would be required to meet all federal safety and operational codes and regulations established by the American National Standards Institute.

The storage/maintenance building is needed to provide proper storage of equipment and supplies that are otherwise stored outside in temporary structures. The new building would be constructed to meet regulations for proper handling of waste oil, fluids from machinery, and flammable materials.

#### **Scoping and Public Involvement**

This Scoping Notice is provided to encourage public participation in the development of this proposed action. Scoping is to determine the scope of the issues to be addressed and to identify issues and concerns relative to the proposed action. This is an opportunity for your involvement early in the planning process; your comments and suggestions are needed and encouraged. We are asking for comments specific to the proposed action. Comments received, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposal, and will be available for public inspection.

The interdisciplinary team, consisting of resource specialists, conducted an initial review of the proposal and identified that the project's scope is such that the project can be evaluated pursuant to Categorical Exclusion 31.2(3) (Approval, modification, or continuation of minor special uses of National Forest System lands that require less than five contiguous acres of land.) Based on the comments from the public, state, and/or Federal agencies, the interdisciplinary team may include possible project design/mitigation measures to minimize effects of the proposed action.

At this time, no effects to any extraordinary circumstances have been identified and we plan to document this decision in a nonappealable Decision Memo.

#### **Contacts**

The public is provided this opportunity to identify and submit issues and concerns they feel the Forest Service should address related to this project. If you feel you have information pertinent and specifically related to the proposed action, we welcome your participation during this 30-day public comment period.

Questions related to the proposed action should be directed to Dave Myers, District Ranger, telephone (307) 527-6921. Written comments can be mailed to: Dave Myers, District Ranger, North Zone/Wapiti Ranger District, 203 A Yellowstone Avenue, Cody, WY 82414, or e-mail at [comments-rocky-mountain-shoshone-wapiti@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-rocky-mountain-shoshone-wapiti@fs.fed.us). Your comments will be most helpful if received in writing no later than May 20, 2004. Please reference "Sleeping Giant Ski Area Lift Replacement" in the subject line of your response.

Sincerely,

*/s/ David R. Myers*

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DAVID R. MYERS  
District Ranger  
Wapiti Ranger District

Date 4/20/04

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